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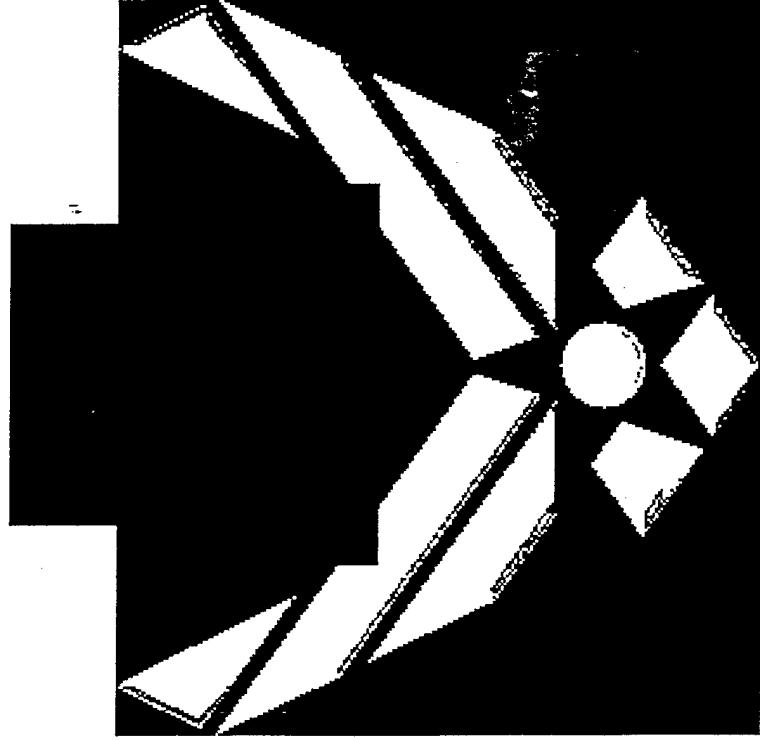
08 Mar 2001

SUBJECT: Authorization for Release of Technical Information, Control Number: **AFRL-PR-ED-TP-2001-048**
Liu, C.T., "Investigating Near Tip Damage and Crack Growth Behavior in a Solid Propellant"
(VuGraphs)

JANNAF 34th Structures & Mechanical Behavior Subcommittee Meeting
(Cocoa Beach, FL, 26-30 Mar 2001) (Deadline: 09 Mar 2001)

(Statement A)

Investigating Near Tip Damage and Crack Growth Behavior in a Solid Propellant



Dr. C. T. Liu

**Principal Materials Research
Engineer**

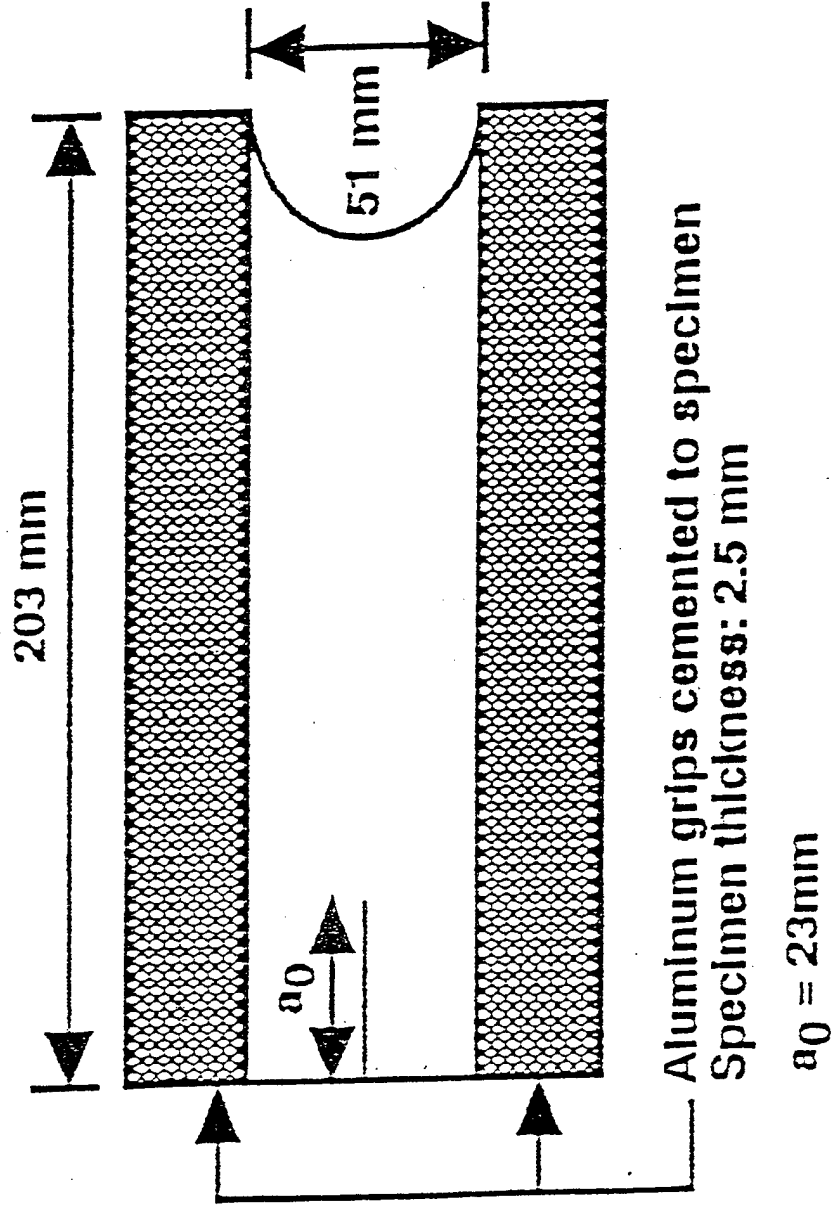
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Objectives

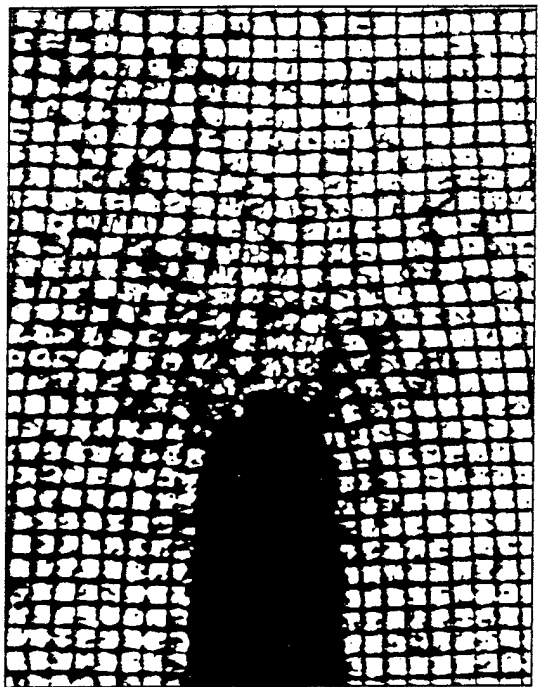
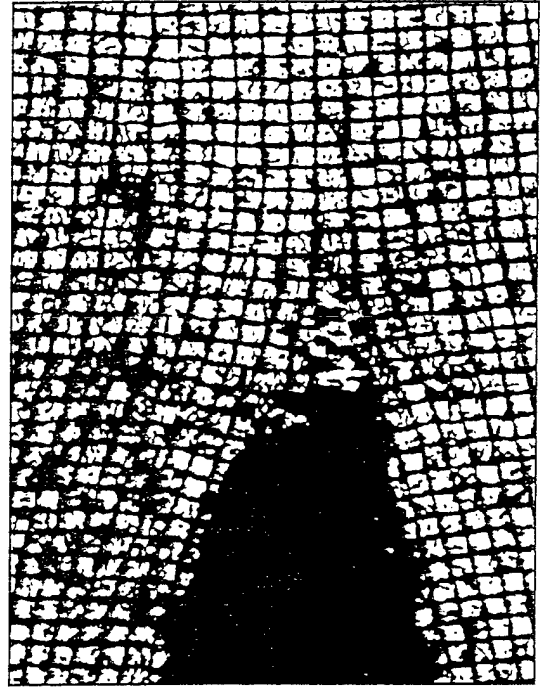
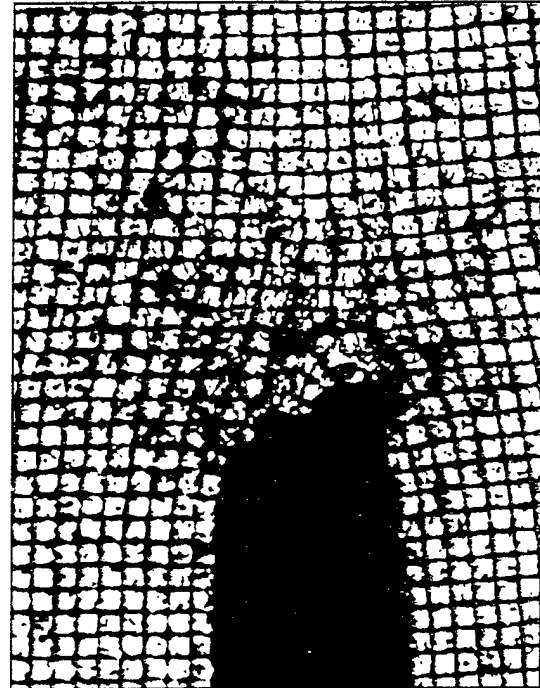


- Investigate the Local Damage Mechanisms Near the Crack tip in a Solid Propellant.
- Investigate the Effects of Local Damage on the Crack Growth Behavior under a Constant Strain Rate Condition.

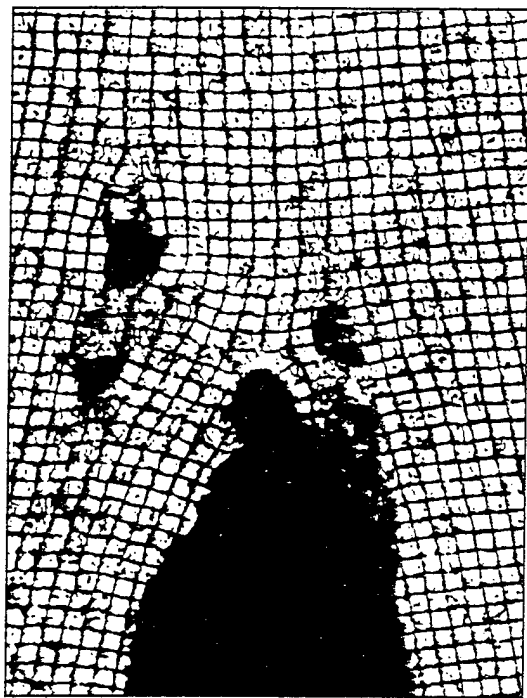
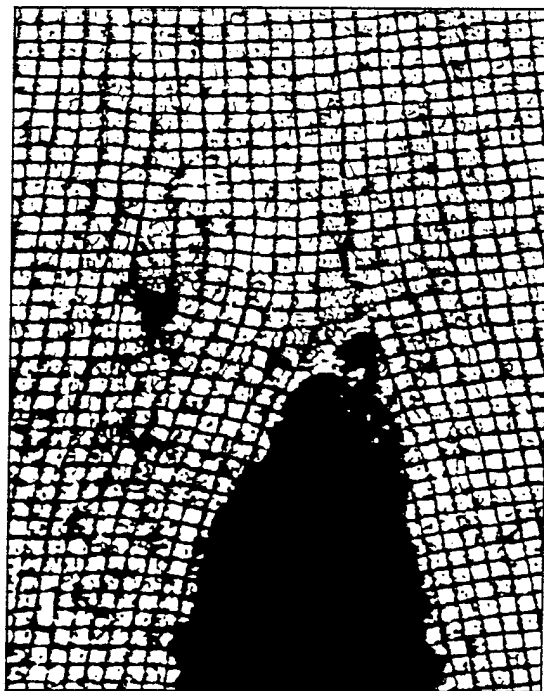


Specimen Geometry

Crack Tip Profiles

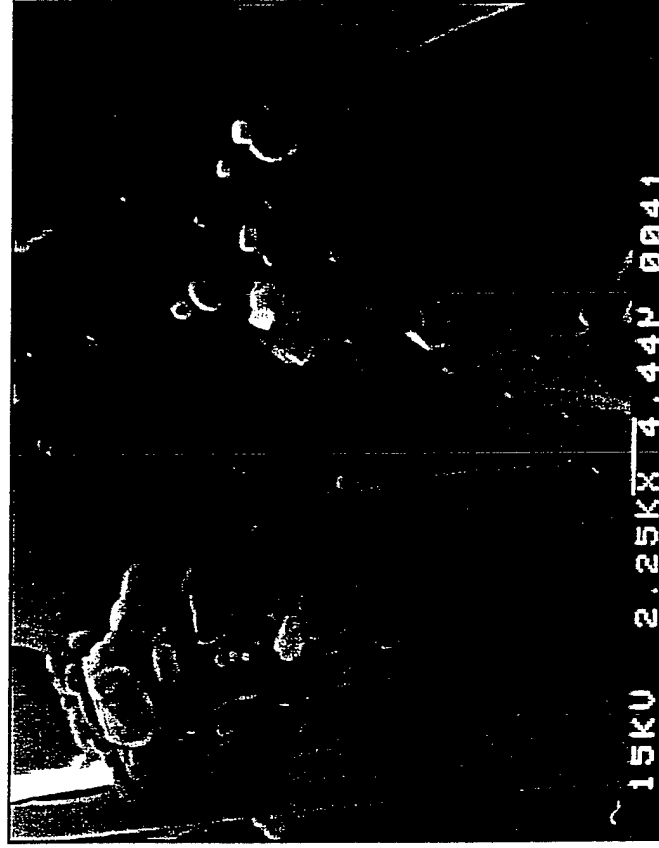
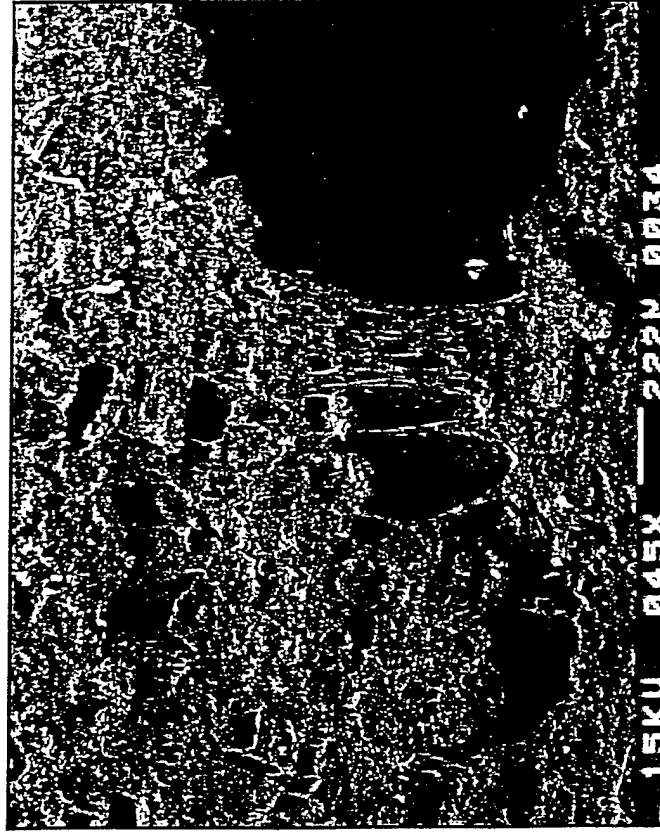


Crack Tip Profiles



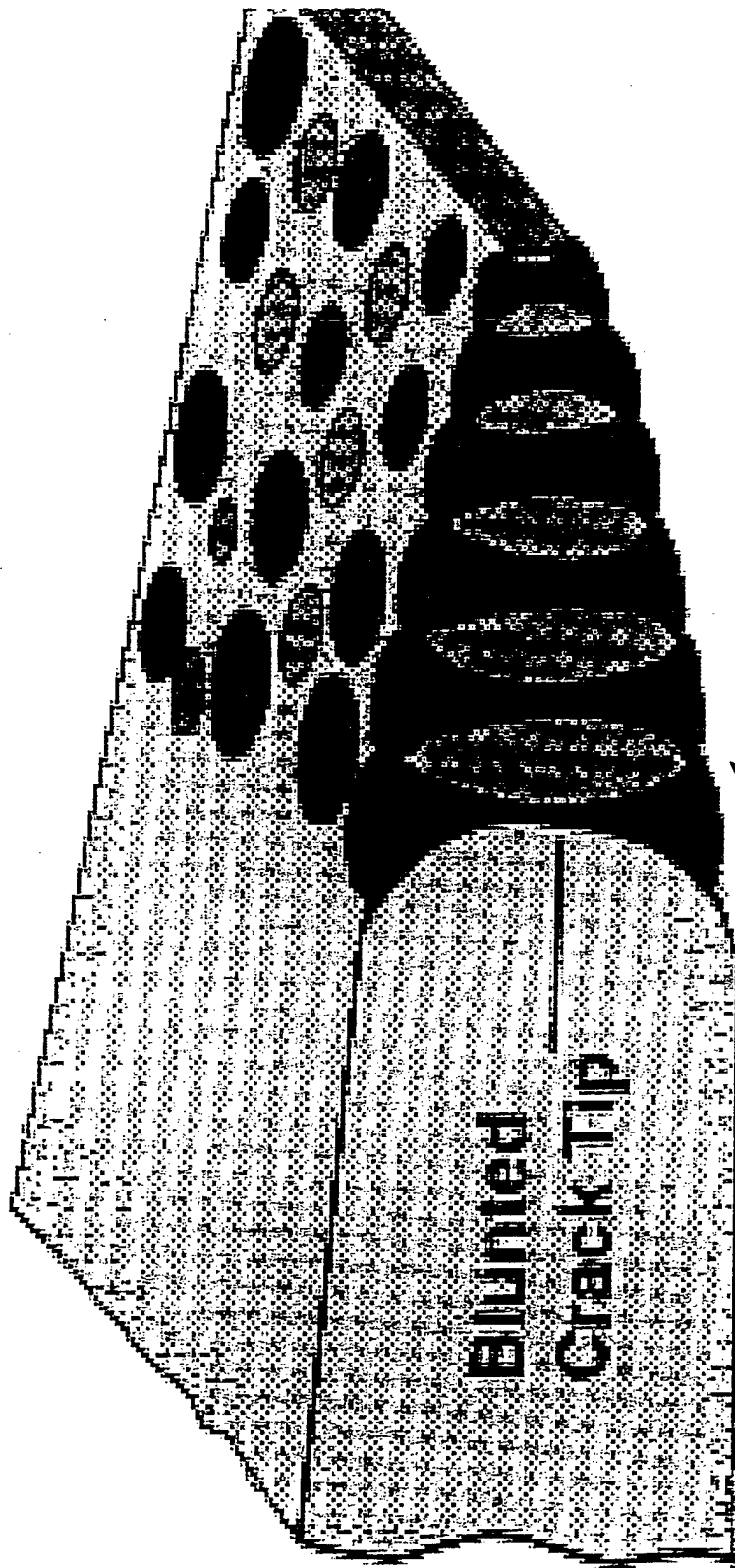


Damage Zone at Crack Tip





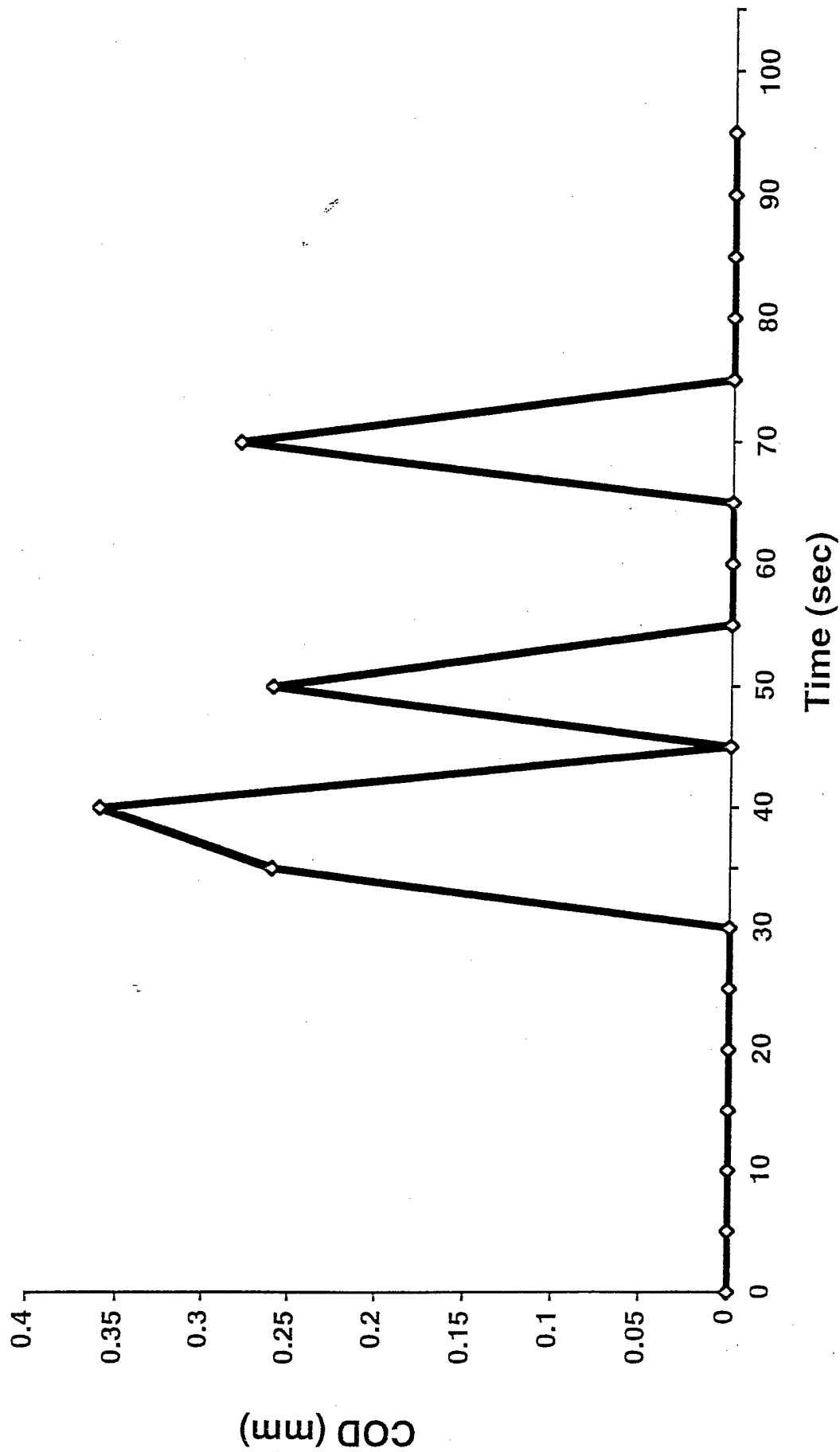
Crack Tip Damage Model



Highly Damaged Zone



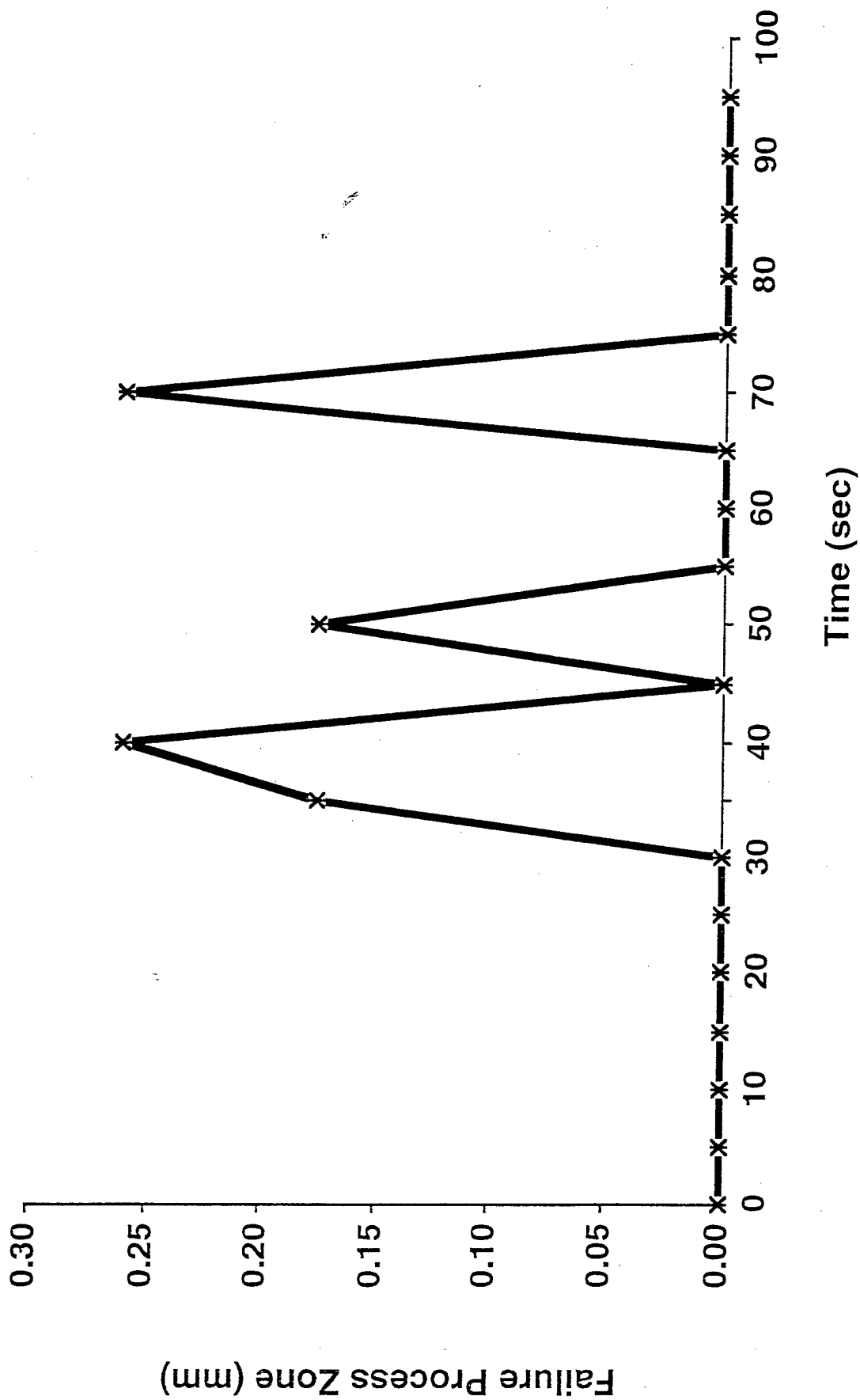
TKLRLT - COD vs. Time





TKLRLT - Failure Process Zone vs. Time

A2130.



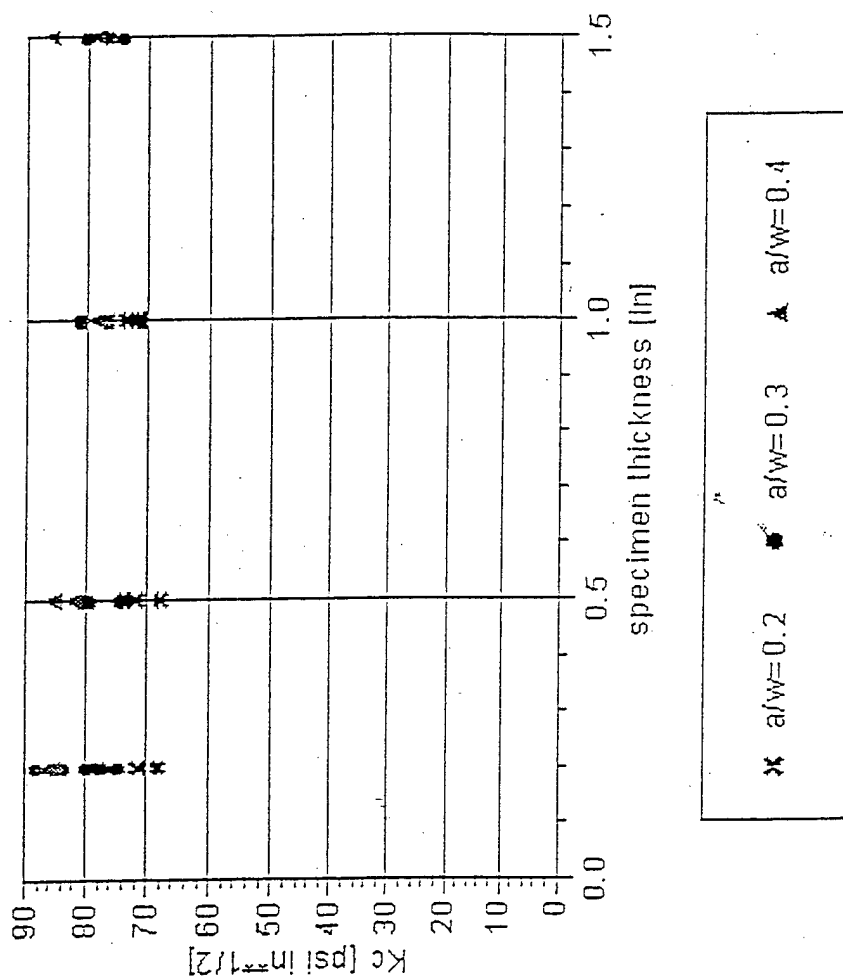


Figure Critical stress intensity factor versus specimen thickness.

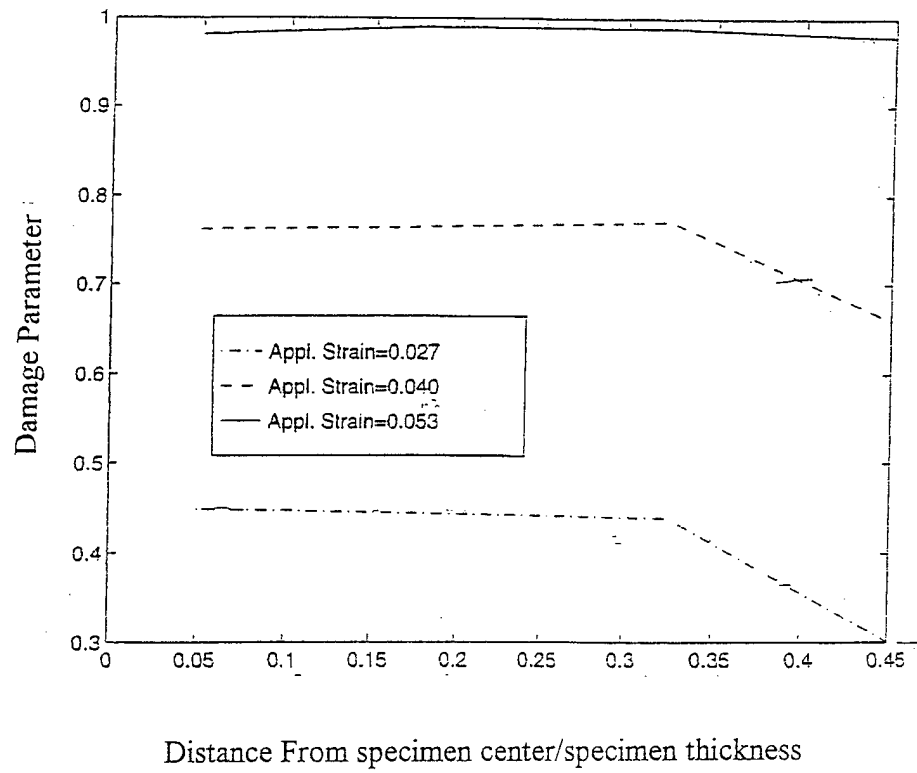


Figure Damage variation along the thickness of the specimen as a function of the applied strain.

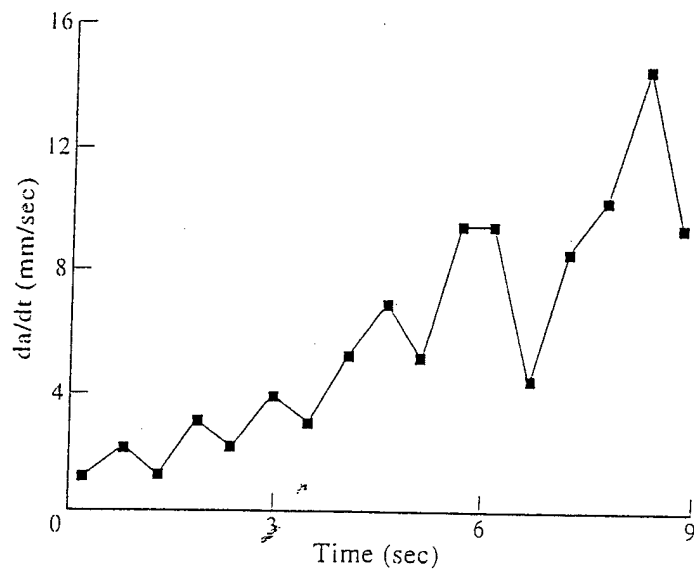


Figure Crack growth rate versus time.



Conclusions



- Experimental findings reveal that severe damage develops at the crack tip.
- The fracture toughness for the onset of crack growth is insensitive to the variation of the thickness of the specimen.
- Three-dimensional micro-macro damage analyses reveal that damage distribution is uniform along the crack front, resulting in a straight crack front.
- The crack-damage interaction is a contributing factor to the fluctuation of the crack growth behavior.